

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRISTY
WHITNEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today to recognize the leadership of Christy Whitney of Grand Junction, Colorado. For the last ten years, Christy has served as the president and CEO of Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado, an institution dedicated to enhancing quality of life for the seriously ill in Mesa, Delta, Montrose and Ouray counties.

A registered nurse, Christy has recently been elected to serve as a director of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. In her new post, Christy will represent hospice programs nation-wide by working with other organizations that share an interest in end-of-life care. Christy also chairs the National Hospice Work Group, a professional coalition of executives from some of the nation's most innovative hospices. Christy's involvement in national hospice organizations ensures that she is at the cutting edge of education, research and advocacy for the best ideas and models for end-of-life care. Her national leadership is an invaluable asset to her patients in Western Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Christy Whitney for her outstanding commitment to the seriously ill. Her organization serves a vital purpose to the citizens of Western Colorado, and her leadership is a credit to the community she serves. I am honored to recognize her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

THE FAILURE OF THE CYPRUS
PEACE TALKS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment about the failure of the latest Cyprus peace talks. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan carefully worked out an acceptable peace plan which represented a compromise approach. The UN peace plan to reunite Cyprus as a single bicomunal federation enjoyed strong support by the United States, the EU, and the wider international community. This plan would have satisfied the interests of both the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots.

I thus applaud Cypriot President Tapas Papadopolous who accepted the UN proposal and was prepared to submit the plan to a separate referendum on March 30. Moreover, immediately after the failure of the negotiations, Papadopolous announced that the Greek Cypriot side will continue its efforts for reaching a solution to the Cypriot issue within the UN framework.

Likewise, I must express my disappointment to the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash who was unwilling to settle for a compromise and rejected the plan. I join the international outcry at the Turkish side's obstructive attitude and urge Denktash to reconsider his ap-

proach. Indeed, the Turkish intransigence hurts first and foremost Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots themselves. The failure of the unification endeavors complicates Ankara's own efforts to join the European Union as the European Commission warned Turkey on March, 11. The Greek Cypriot part of the island is going to join the EU in May 2004 with or without the Turkish Cypriots. Yet without a deal on the Cyprus issue, Turkey will find itself in a position of not recognizing a member of the European Union.

Public demonstrations by the Turkish-Cypriot opposition in favor of the proposal further express clearly who will be the major victims of the failed talks: the Turkish Cypriots who will be excluded from the benefits of EU membership that the Greek Cypriot side will enjoy.

I conclude in expressing my desire that the United States must remain involved in seeking a just and permanent solution to the Cyprus issue. The Bush administration must therefore put more pressure not only on the Turkish Cypriot leader but also on Turkey to cooperate constructively within the UN framework to realize a negotiated settlement on Cyprus.

HONORING A DEDICATED PUBLIC
SERVANT, MR. JOHN WIGGINS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, there are many heroes who work night and day, week after week, month after month to keep our neighborhoods, cities, states and this great nation safe and secure. Mr. John Wiggins is one of those heroes. John, at the very young age of 53, is retiring in April after almost 33 years of dedicated service with the Mobile Fire and Rescue Department.

John is the oldest firefighter in the department who actually still fights fires. For more than three decades, he has been able to live out his childhood dream of serving his community as a firefighter. He has seen many changes in firefighting, paramedics and in the department and has raised, and trained, many new recruits and most of the current fire chiefs. John laughs that every time he gets in Ladder Truck 10, which operates out of Gus Rehm Fire Station on Moffett Road in Mobile, "and those lights and siren come on, it's like I'm 20 years old again."

John has also assumed leadership roles with his fellow firefighters. He has been a member of the Mobile Fire Fighters Association Local 1349 since he first joined the fire department and has served as its president for the last four years. He has not only worked for his fellow firefighters but has also worked as president of the City Workers' Coalition to approach City Hall with city workers' work-related concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring John Wiggins for his many years of commitment to bring safety and security to his community and to his nation through his continued service with the Mobile Fire and Rescue Department. The Department and the City of Mobile are losing a valuable and dedicated servant and leader. However, I am sure that John's wife, Joy, and his children, stepchildren and grandchildren

will enjoy spending more time with this hometown hero. I wish John all the best in his retirement years and always.

RECOGNIZING THE MATIGNON
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKET-
BALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Matignon Warriors boys' basketball team. On Monday, March 10, 2003, the Warriors defeated the Southeastern Regional Hawks to win the MIAA Division 4 state championship by a score of 78-55. Matignon High School, which is located in North Cambridge, is a cornerstone of the community, and I am proud to honor the members and coaches of the boys' championship basketball team.

I want to take the time to recognize the individuals who make up the state champs, and extend my congratulations on an incredible season: Alex Aiello, Shelby Berleus, Greg Case, Ralph Fevrier, Jimmy Guerrier, Jeff Lerebour, John McMahon, Chris Neil, John Nicoloro, Chris O'Callaghan, Ricky Prosper, AJ Urquhart, Justin Veri, Frank Whitney, Head Coach Joel Burke, Assistant Coaches Ed O'Callaghan, Sean O'Callaghan, Terry Matthews and Mel Story.

I am also including a copy of an article which appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle on March 12, 2003.

WARRIORS WIN DIV. 4 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

(By Jamie Pote)

The last time the Matignon boys basketball team played at the FleetCenter, coach Joel Burke said the excitement of taking the fabled parquet floor caused his team to lose focus.

Monday afternoon, the Warriors' focus was impeccable. Matignon stormed out to a 27-point halftime lead and coasted to a 78-55 victory over Southeastern Regional to capture the Division 4 state title (there are no Div. 4 teams outside Eastern Mass.).

"In 1997 we were just happy to be here," said Burke, whose team lost to Avon that year. "We were too busy taking pictures and we seemed to have lost our focus. That was my big concern heading into this game—we had to be ready."

"And for sure, we were ready for this game."

Led by seniors John McMahon (29 points) and Chris Neil (19 points), Matignon (21-4) outplayed the Hawks in nearly every facet of the game, including a 20-9 edge in rebounds in the first half.

"We thought if we held them to just one shot that we would be able to keep the game close," Burke said. "We had no idea that this would happen. The court is so big and we just moved the ball all over to the open spots and hit a lot of easy baskets."

In Friday's sectional final, Matignon picked apart Minuteman Tech's 2-2-1 zone defense and led by 39 points at halftime. Southeastern played much of the same defense yesterday and Matignon again picked it apart with baskets in transition. The Warriors also relied on their outside shooting by hitting eight 3-pointers in the game, with seven of those treys coming before halftime.

"When we play on the bigger courts, it's just easier for us to score on transition," Neil said. "It means that we're the team

that's most in shape. We're a running team and no one can catch us when they try those gimmick zone defenses, the 2-2-1 or the 1-2-2. We just skip right over that and score so many easy baskets."

Neil set the tone right away for Matignon when he buried a 3-pointer from the right elbow just 30 seconds into the game. South-eastern stayed close over the next few minutes, trailing 10-9, and that's when Matignon blew the game wide open. The Warriors went on a 16-0 run, including three baskets by junior Jimmy Guerrier (12 points).

"We were just getting a lot of great looks," said Burke, whose team led 47-20 at the half. "And the ball was falling in the basket. That's a good team over there and I think some of their early shots that didn't go in just took them out of their game."

Matignon opened the second half with an 11-4 run, sparked by a 3-pointer and layup by Neil and a pair of baskets from McMahon.

TRIBUTE TO SONJA HOROSHKO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with much pleasure that I rise today to commend a distinguished artist, Sonja Horoshko of Cortez, Colorado, for expanding the reach of artistic endeavor in Montezuma County and the four corners region. Sonja is a nationally recognized artist who brings an appreciation for art to diverse communities through her "Drawing Together" workshops. Today, I am honored to pay tribute to her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

"Drawing Together" encourages individuals, families and communities to create art collectively and with a wide variety of media. In 2001, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded Sonja a Challenge America Grant to present her workshops to four locations in Montezuma County. Eighty-one students, ages eight to sixty-two, participated. This summer a film drawn from one of her pioneering workshops with third grade Butterfly Dancers will be released at Aztec Ruins National Monument in New Mexico.

Since relocating to Montezuma County in 1993, Sonja has become a fixture of the Southwestern Colorado Art Community. She has been an artist in residence at Hovenweep National Monument and has received grants from Colorado Council of the Arts, the Utah Art Council, and the Mesa Verde Museum Association, among others. Internationally, she was invited to participate in the 53rd Conference on World Affairs in 2001, where she participated in panels connecting art to journalism, science, and politics. Sonja's art has also been a platform for activism in Colorado, as she represented the rural voice of Montezuma County at a conference in Denver focusing on critical statewide issues including economic development, tourism, and public health.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and recognize Sonja Horoshko before this body of Congress and this nation. Sonja's career models the wide scope and influence of art in all its forms. Her workshops teach artistic expression to communities and individuals, both

young and old, encouraging them to tell their own story in their own voice. It is my distinct honor to represent such a fine and creative American in this Congress and to know that there are individuals, like Sonja Horoshko, who constantly strive to create and appreciate beauty in our world.

IRAQ

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, my hopes for peace have given way to the reality of war. Although I agree with President Bush that Saddam Hussein is a dangerous man, I am not convinced that a military attack against Iraq is in the best interest of our nation. For this reason, I voted against a resolution last year that was the equivalent of a declaration of war which authorized the President to launch a military strike to disarm and possibly overthrow Saddam Hussein.

The issue is not whether or not Saddam Hussein is a dangerous dictator who should be disarmed. Just this past Sunday, we marked the fifteenth anniversary of Saddam Hussein's chemical weapons attack on a predominantly Kurdish village in northeastern Iraq where 5,000 civilians died. The international community has an important obligation to ensure that Saddam Hussein cannot repeat his aggression of the past, and as the world's most powerful country, we must be committed to lead. Through U.N. inspections, continued monitoring and increased scrutiny of Baghdad, I think we can meet that responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, we must realize that a possible military attack against Iraq would represent a major shift in American diplomatic and strategic thinking. For nearly fifty years, we relied upon deterrence to check Soviet expansionism. Deterrence brought us victory in the Cold War without having to fight a hot, shooting war under the shadow of nuclear annihilation. That same strategy has kept Iraq at bay for more than a decade. Now that doctrine is on the verge of being discarded.

There are several other critical questions to which we've heard very few answers. We must have a clear plan on how an attack on Iraq would transpire, including identifying our military options, determining our strategy to change the regime, calculating the potential casualties, and estimating how much an operation would cost and how it will be funded.

We must also see a plan to build democratic and free-market institutions in a post-Saddam Iraq. History teaches us that how we win the peace is just as critical as how we win the war. Thus far, these crucial issues have received little attention.

For those of us who counseled a peaceful strategy to disarm Iraq in the months before this point, it is now time to unite in our support for the 300,000 brave men and women in the region. I fervently and completely join the President in the hope and prayer for the safe and quick return of our soldiers to their homes and families.

I know that members of our military serve this nation's ideals and they demonstrate those ideals in their code and in their character. I have seen their love of this country and devotion to the cause of peace and freedom. I know that their mission is dangerous, and I personally thank them for their service. May God bless our troops and their families, and may God bless America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today Congresswoman WILSON and I are introducing the Medicaid Safety Net Improvement Act of 2003. This important legislation would increase the allowed federal Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotment in "extremely low-DSH" states from one percent to three percent of Medicaid program costs.

In the mid-1980s, Congress established the Medicaid DSH program to provide additional funds to certain hospitals that deliver a disproportionate share of health care services to low-income patients, including Medicaid recipients and the uninsured. By providing financial relief to these facilities, this program ensures that all Americans—regardless of ability to pay—have access to critical hospital care.

Unfortunately, due to limitations imposed by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) and the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA), there are significant inequities in how these funds are distributed among states. For 18 states, including the State of Wisconsin, the federal DSH allotments are not allowed to exceed one percent of the state's Medicaid program costs. The average state spends about eight percent of its Medicaid funding on DSH.

This bipartisan legislation would address this inequity by raising the share of federal funds to extremely low-DSH states. The 18 states that would benefit from this proposal include: Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. It is important to note that this bill would not redistribute or reduce the federal DSH allotments in other states.

The Medicaid DSH program plays a tremendous role in the survival of the safety net that serves our most vulnerable populations, particularly the rising number of uninsured Americans, which at last count stands at nearly 42 million. For many hospital facilities, Medicaid DSH is the main reason they are able to keep their doors open. Providing an increase to three percent of Medicaid spending in the allowable DSH allotment would do a great deal to help these low-DSH states support low-income medical care.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this important legislation.